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15 September 1972

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

CHILE: Allende maneuvers as coup rumors spread.
(Page 4)

25X1

USSR: Central Committee will hear Brezhnev report
on agriculture. (Page 8)

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022800010003-5

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022800010003-5

CHILE: President Allende is stepping up his political maneuvering as public speculation spreads that a coup attempt is imminent.

Allende is making some progress in his attempts to get the Christian Democrats to agree to a truce and to enlist their cooperation against forces that consider a coup the only solution to Chile's present difficulties. An evident lack of public enthusiasm and squabbles between the Christian Democratic and National parties were the reasons for canceling yesterday's opposition march, [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] Disheartened by this setback and by the massive turnout for Allende on 4 September, the Christian Democrats' predilection to seek some arrangement with him has been strengthened. Their chief concern is to ensure that congressional elections will be held in March; they fear that a coup would preclude this.

Allende is also exploiting the copper issue to elicit nationalistic statements from opposition politicians in support of his policies. Both Christian Democratic and National spokesmen have applauded Allende's strong criticism of the Kennecott Copper Corporation. Kennecott recently threatened that it would seek to attach payments resulting from the sale of copper to other countries from its nationalized mines in Chile.

Allende's overtures to the Christian Democrats are strongly opposed by his own Socialists and have exacerbated the internal strains in his administration. While an official statement on 14 September praised the more reasonable attitude of moderate opposition elements, the extreme leftist miristas, who are allied to the Socialists, are calling for violence. The mirista statement exhorts Chileans to take to the streets to demonstrate that they will use armed force to prevent a coup.

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15 Sep 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

4

News media across the political spectrum, meanwhile, are fueling the rumors that some military move is in the offing. The widespread publicity and the presence of high-ranking military visitors, such as Soviet Air Marshal Kutakov, for the independence celebrations beginning this weekend probably are adding to the military's difficulties in reaching a decision on whether and when they should intervene.

15 Sep 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

5

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022800010003-5

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

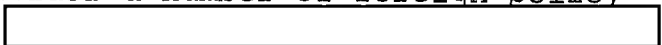
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USSR: A report by Brezhnev on Soviet agricultural problems will be among the topics discussed at the Party Central Committee plenum scheduled for 16 September.



The US Embassy agricultural attaché, however, is less sanguine over crop prospects there and not even a bumper crop will come close to offsetting the losses in other regions.

The Kremlin's decision to hold the Central Committee plenum on 16 rather than 18 September--the day before the Supreme Soviet is to convene--provides time for a thorough discussion of the agricultural situation. This scheduling could also indicate that the plenum will consider a number of foreign policy questions as well.



15 Sep 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

8

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022800010003-5

Next 4 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022800010003-5

25X1

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